

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T USNATO 2088

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PARM, PFOR, NATO, UR

SUBJECT: CSCE: CBMS: SOVIET NATIONAL MANEUVERS

REF: (A) STATE 084111; (B) USNATO 2014; (C) USNATO 1854; (D)
USNATO 1373

1. DURING APRIL 15 POLADS, U.S. REP (LEDOGAR) INFORMED COMMITTEE THAT THE U.S. HAD PREPARED A STUDY CALCULATING THE NUMBER OF SOVIET NATIONAL MANEUVERS (REF A). SINCE POLADS HAD DECIDED AT THEIR APRIL 11 MEETING TO KEEP SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON CBMS WITHIN NATO CAUCUS IN GENEVA (REF B), HE INTENDED MERELY TO INFORM COMMITTEE OF FACT THAT STUDY WAS BEING DISTRIBUTED IN GENEVA. HE SAID U.S. FIGURES ARE EXPRESSED IN RANGES RATHER THAN SINGLE FIGURES, BUT THEY SEEM SUBSTANTIALY IN ACCORD WITH EARLIER UK ESTIMATE (REF C).

2. FRG REP (CITRON) SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH POLADS HAD DECIDED THAT DISCUSSION OF BOTH SUBSTANCE AND TACTICS OF CBMS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA, HE STILL FELT FIGURES ON MANEUVERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN BRUSSELS. HE REQUESTED COPY OF U.S. STUDY. IMS REP (OGLIARO)
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ALSO REQUESTED COPY FOR INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES.

3. NETHERLANDS REP (HORAK) SUGGESTED THAT U.S. REP DISTRIBUTE U.S. STUDY IN BRUSSELS FOR THE RECORD, BUT THAT GENEVA NATO CAUCUS SHOULD

CONSIDER IMPLICATIONS OF U.S. STUDY FOR CBMS PARAMETERS IN GENEVA. CANADIAN AND DANISH REPS SUPPORTED DUTCH SUGGESTION. U.S. REP AGREED TO CIRCULATE STUDY, POINTING OUT THAT THERE WERE SOME MINOR AMBIGUITIES IN THE STUDY; HE SAID U.S. MISSION WOULD BE SEEKING CLARIFICATION ON THESE POINTS.

4. MISSION COMMENT: MISSION APPRECIATES RESPONSE ON SOVIET NATIONAL MANEUVERS PROVIDED REF A. WE BELIEVE PROVIDING AVERAGE RANGE OF FIGURES WITH METHODOLOGY OF CALCULATION IS MOST USEFUL TREATMENT OF ESTIMATE. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, SOME DISCREPANCIES WITH EARLIER FIGURES WHICH WILL RAISE QUESTIONS IN BOTH BRUSSELS AND GENEVA AND SUGGEST ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION FOR BOTH FORA.

5. NATO DISCUSSIONS OF SOVIET MANEUVERS AT DIVISION LEVEL OR ABOVE HAVE ASSUMED SIZE OF SOVIET TROOPS DEPLOYED TO BE 10-12,000 MEN IN ANY SINGLE EXERCISE. PARA 2 OF REF A REFERS TO "ACTUAL DEPLOYMENT IN THE FIELD OF MAJOR ELEMENTS OF TWO OR MORE OPPOSING DIVISIONS, EACH CONTROLLED TACTICALLY BY A DIVISION COMMANDER." WE EXPECT OTHER ALLIES MAY ASK WHAT NUMBER OF MEN IS IMPLIED BY U.S. DEFINITION.

6. WE ALSO NOTE THAT U.S. ESTIMATES ANNUAL TOTAL OF 40-50 MANEUVERS WITH 27-28 MANEUVERS WITHIN SOVIET UNION (REF A), WHICH IS ROUGHLY SIMILAR TO UK ESTIMATE OF 48 SOVIET MANEUVERS WITH 24 TAKING PLACE WITHIN SOVIET UNION (REF C). UK ESTIMATE, HOWEVER, PLACES 19 OF 24 SOVIET NATIONAL MANEUVERS WITHIN NARROW ZONE OF ONLY 100 KM FROM USSR'S EUROPEAN BORDER AND ONLY FIVE ADDITIONAL IN BROADER ZONE OF 700 KM; U.S. STUDY DOES NOT SPECIFY HOW MANY OF 27 OR 28 SOVIET EXERCISES IN WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS OCCUR IN 100 AND 700 KM ZONES. SINCE UK ESTIMATE CAUSED THE IMS STAFF TO OPINE THAT THEY COULD THEREBY ACCEPT THE NARROW QPXX 100 KM ZONE AS A CBMS PARAMETER ("IF THE UK FIGURES ARE ACCURATE"), WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONFIRM EXACTLY WHAT PERCENTAGE OF SOVIET NATIONAL MANEUVERS TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE 100 AND 700 KM ZONES.

7. REF A ADDRESSES ONLY SOVIET NATIONAL MANEUVERS. UK FIGURES ON SECRET

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EXERCISES BY NON-SOVIET FORCES (REF C) ARE DOUBLE THOSE OF EARLIER IMS ESTIMATE (REF D), I.E., 34 VICE 17. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE DATA ON NSWP FORCE MANEUVERS OR COMMENT ON CONFLICTING FIGURES.

8. ACTION REQUEST: A) CLARIFICATION ON NUMBERS OF MEN IMPLIED IN DEFINITION OF SOVIET NATIONAL MANEUVERS IN PARA 2 OF REF A; B) GUIDANCE ON APPLICATION OF 100 KM AND 700 KM "ZONES" IN USSR TO FIGURES PROVIDED REF A; AND C) ANY AVAILABLE DATA ON NSWP FORCE EXERCISES. BRUCE

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